

**REMARKS**

**A. Regarding the Amendments**

This preliminary amendment is being submitted in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination. Prior to filing of the RCE, the application had been allowed and the issue fee paid. With the Notice of Allowance, the claims were amended by Examiner's Amendment. By the present amendment, the claims incorporate the substantive amendments made by the Examiner's Amendment, but do not utilize the Examiner's renumbering of the claims. Claim numbers are maintained, as utilized throughout prosecution.

Claim 15 has been amended as set forth above in the Complete Listing of the Claims. The amendments to claim 15 simply removed part (d), which was repetitive of part (b). Additionally, new claims 20-22 have been added. As submitted the claims are fully supported by the specification and the claims, as originally filed.

In re Application of:  
Grotendorst and Neff  
Application No.: 09/461,646  
Filed: December 14, 1999  
Page 5

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: FIBRO1130-2

**CONCLUSION**

Enclosed are Check Nos. 544844 and 544841 in the total amounts of \$130.00 and \$375.00, respectively; which consist of \$130.00 for the petition fee to withdraw the application from issue and \$375.00 for the Request for Continued Examination fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees associated with the filing submitted herewith, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1355. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if there are any questions related to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 24, 2003



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